

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 02687 01 OF 02 191511Z

44

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12

NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OIC-02 IOE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05 SS-15

L-03 PRS-01 USIE-00 /103 W  
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O 191400Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5814

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 2687

FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FAO, OCON

SUBJECT: FIRST SESSION OF WORKING PARTY ON STRUCTURE OF FAO  
COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES, ROME, MARCH 3-5, 1976

REF: (A) STATE 036975 (B) ROME 2298

1. SUMMARY. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO CALLED ON FAO COUNCIL CHAIRMAN BULA HOYOS FEBRUARY 18 TO RAISE QUESTIONS POSED REF A. BULA HOYOS DID NOT AGREE TO POSTPONE FIRST SESSION OF WORKING PARTY, SAYING THAT SESSION WOULD MERELY DEAL WITH PLAN OF WORK AND WOULD REACH NO DECISIONS. HE PLANS ANOTHER SESSION IMMEDIATELY AFTER FAO COUNCIL MEETING IN JULY AND PERHAPS THIRD IN OCTOBER, TO MAKE INTERIM REPORT TO FAO COUNCIL NOVEMBER MEETING, WHICH WOULD THEN DECIDE WHETHER IT SHOULD CONTINUE OR NOT. BULA HOYOS SAID THAT HE BELIEVES HIS VIEWS COINCIDE WITH USG'S ON KEEPING COUNCIL SMALL AND WORKABLE, AND THAT HE AND FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL SAOUMA FAVOR KEEPING PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES UNCHANGED. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FIRMLY BELIEVES THEY ARE FOR REASONS OF THEIR OWN WORKING TOWARD SAME OBJECTIVES AS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SO FAR AS STRUCTURE OF COUNCIL AND PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES ARE  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ROME 02687 01 OF 02 191511Z

CONCERNED.

GENEVA GROUP IS OF GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT (A) MAIN ISSUE WILL BE ENLARGEMENT OF COUNCIL TO INCLUDE MORE AFRICANS, (B) FORCES FAVORING ENLARGEMENT OF COUNCIL AND CHANGES IN PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES HAVE RECENTLY LOST MUCH OF THEIR FORCE, (C) BEST TACTIC OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WOULD BE QUIETLY TO RESIST CHANGES IN COUNCIL AND PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEE, AND (D) NOVEMBER 1975 ELECTIONS GREATLY REDUCED DEVELOPED COUNTRY INFLUENCE IN FAO THROUGH FINANCE COMMITTEE. PRIVATE CAPACITY OF MEMBERS OF PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES IS SENSITIVE ISSUE WHEN DISCUSSED WITH GENEVA GROUP BECAUSE OF WIDESPREAD PERSONAL COMPETITION OF MEMBERS FOR COMMITTEE SEATS. MOST INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES BELIEVE SYSTEM HAS WORKED TO FACILITATE DEVELOPED-DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CONSENSUSES IN PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES TO ADVANTAGE OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER PERSONAL CAPACITY ISSUE WILL ARISE IN WORKING PARTY OR NOT.

2. REPRESENTATIONS TO FAO COUNCIL CHAIRMAN BULA HOYOS. PER PARA 5 REF A, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE INFORMED BULA HOYOS THAT UNITED STATES WILL CONSULT WITH CANADA RE WORKING PARTY, AND THAT UNITED STATES THINKS MOST COUNTRIES WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY OBTAINING CONSTITUENTS VIEWS PRIOR TO MARCH 3 AND POSTPONEMENT MIGHT BE ADVISABLE. BULA HOYOS RESPONDED WITH ASSURANCE TO U.S. GOVERNMENT THAT NOTHING OF IMPORTANCE WILL TRANSPIRE IN MARCH 3 SESSION. HE INTENDS TO DISCUSS ONLY PLANS OF WORK. NO DECISIONS ARE TO BE MADE, AND ONLY REPORT WILL BE CHAIRMAN'S SUMMARY, WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE PRESENTED TO FAO COUNCIL BY ONE OF TWO VICE-CHAIRMEN HE SUGGESTS BE CHOSEN, BECAUSE HE HIMSELF WILL BE CHAIRING FAO COUNCIL. (U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DID NOT PRESS POSTPONEMENT SUGGESTION FURTHER BECAUSE WE HAVE KNOWN DATE ONE MONTH, ROME 0694, ONLY TWO WEEKS REMAIN BEFORE TIME SET FOR SESSION, OTHER COUNTRIES ARE OPERATING ON THAT TIME SCHEDULE, AND INTERPRETERS' CONTRACTS CANNOT BE CANCELLED ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE.)

3. PER PAR 6 REFTTEL A, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE ASKED WHETHER BULA HOYOS HAD CONSIDERED ASKING ALL MEMBERS TO SUBMIT WRITTEN VIEWS FOR WORKING PARTY CONSIDERATION. BULA HOYOS SAID THIS WAS SORT OF QUESTION THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED AT FIRST SESSION  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 02687 01 OF 02 191511Z

ON WORKING PROCEDURES. HE SAID QUESTION HAD ALSO BEEN RAISED WHETHER NON-MEMBERS COULD APPEAR BEFORE WORKING PARTY TO PRESENT VIEWS, BUT NOT AUDIT SESSIONS. MALTESE REPRESENTATIVE WAS CITED AS ONE WHO HAD RAISED ISSUE. BULA HOYOS ASKED U.S. VIEWS, AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVE EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT THEY SHOULD NOT, TO PREVENT EFFECTIVE EXPANSION OF WORKING PARTY TO UNWORKABLE SIZE (NOT MENTIONING MAIN REASON WHICH IS THAT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHO WOULD WISH TO PRESENT VIEWS WOULD

GREATLY OUTNUMBER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES).

4. BULA HOYOS FURTHER COMMENTS. BULA HOYOS SAID HE IS THINKING OF CONVENING SECOND SESSION IMMEDIATELY AFTER FAO COUNCIL IN JULY, TO FACILITATE PARTICIPATION BY OFFICIALS ATTENDING COUNCIL MEETING. ANOTHER SESSION MIGHT BE HELD IN OCTOBER, AND AN INTERIM REPORT PRESENTED TO FAO COUNCIL NOVEMBER SESSION, LEAVING IT TO COUNCIL TO DECIDE WHETHER WORK SHOULD CONTINUE OR NOT.

5. BULA HOYOS SAID HE BELIEVES HIS OWN VIEWS ARE QUITE IN LINE WITH THOSE OF UNITED STATES. HE CITED HIS OWN COMMENT TO FAO CONFERENCE THAT ANY CHANGES RECOMMENDED SHOULD BE ON CONCRETE AND AGREED BASIS, AND NOT CHANGES FOR CHANGE SAKE. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT VIEWS OF UNITED STATES AND OF OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AS HE PERCEIVED THEM WERE THAT COUNCIL MUST BE KEPT RELATIVELY SMALL BODY IF IT IS TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY. IT DOES NOT UNDULY RESTRICT INVOLVEMENT OF OTHERS IN THAT ITS RULES FOR OBSERVER PARTICIPATION ARE EXTREMELY LENIENT. ON PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SAID THAT AFTER RESULTS OF LAST ELECTIONS HE DID NOT SEE HOW DEVELOPING COUNTRIES COULD ARGUE THAT DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WERE OVER-REPRESENTED. BULA HOYOS SAID HE AND FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL SAOUMA BELIEVE PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES SHOULD BE LEFT EXACTLY AS THEY ARE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 ROME 02687 02 OF 02 191520Z

43

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12

NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OIC-02 IOE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05 SS-15

L-03 PRS-01 USIE-00 /103 W

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O 191400Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5815

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ROME 2687

FODAG

6. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE ASKED WHY BULA HOYOS HAD INDICATED WORKING PARTY SHOULD EXAMINE OTHER FAO COMMITTEES AS WELL, WHICH DOES NOT SEEM TO BE SPECIFICALLY IN TERMS OF REFERENCE OF WORKING PARTY. BULA HOYOS SAID THAT ANY DETAILED STUDY OF FAO COUNCIL AND ITS WORK HAD TO CONSIDER COMMITTEES REPORTING TO IT. HE AGREED WITH U.S. REPRESENTATIVE THAT MEMBERSHIP OF THOSE OTHER COMMITTEES SHOULD BE NO QUESTION. COMMITTEE ON COMMODITY PROBLEMS, HOWEVER, MIGHT BE ASKED TO REVIEW ITS SUBCOMMITTEES WITH VIEW TO REDUCING NUMBER. PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MIGHT BE ASKED CONSIDER FAO RELATIONS WITH WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AND INTERNATIONAL FUND (CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE LATER COMMENTED WHEN BRIEFED ON THIS CONVERSATION THAT THIS MANDATE IS INCLUDED IN ANOTHER RESOLUTION OF FAO CONFERENCE, BUT THAT RESOLUTION WAS NOT REFERRED TO THIS WORKING PARTY.

7. BULA HOYOS COMMENTED APOLOGETICALLY ON CHOICE OF COUNTRIES FOR PARTICIPATION IN WORKING PARTY. IT HAD NOT BEEN EASY TO TURN CANADA DOWN, BUT HE WOULD HAVE HAD TO ACCEPT MORE MEMBERS THEN FROM OTHER REGIONS. HE THOUGHT ADDING JAPAN HAD HELPED BALANCE NUMBER OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. HE HAD WANTED TO PICK UNITED KINGDOM AS ONE OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 02687 02 OF 02 191520Z

BUT HAD TO PICK FRANCE BECAUSE FRANCE HAD ORIGINALLY PROPOSED THIS WORKING PARTY. HE COMMENTED THAT FRENCH SPOKESMAN ON THAT OCCASION, VELAY, WILL BE FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE, AND SAID HE CONSIDERS HIM GOOD MAN. HE SAID HE HAD TOLD AMBASSADOR ARMENDARIZ OF MEXICO STERNLY THAT HE SHOULD NOT TRY TO FORCE HIS IDEAS ON WORKING PARTY, AND ARMENDARIZ HAD SAID HE HAD MADE MISTAKE IN EXPOUNDING PERSONAL IDEAS DESPITE HIS NEWNESS TO SCENE, AND WOULD NOT RAISE DIFFICULTIES.

8. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE'S ASSESSMENT OF WORKING PARTY PROSPECTS. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE IS NOT BLIND TO BULA HOYOS' OPPORTUNISM AND POLITICAL AMBITION, BUT BELIEVES ON BASIS OF EVERY EVIDENCE HERE THAT BULA HOYOS AND DIRECTOR GENERAL SAOUMA ARE WORKING FOR REASONS OF THEIR OWN TOWARD SAME OBJECTIVE WE ARE. BULA HOYOS AND SAOUMA DID SHOW CONCERN WHEN THEIR PLAN TO HAVE UNITED STATES RE-ELECTED TO FINANCE COMMITTEE FELL THROUGH, AND HAVE TRIED TO INVOLVE U.S. ALTERNATE IN WORK OF COMMITTEE. TO DATE ALL THEIR ACTIONS SEEM SINGULARLY AIMED TO STRENGTHENING FAO. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE HAS CHECKED ON THEIR MOVES SINCE FAO CONFERENCE WITH OTHER PERM REPS AND OFFICIALS AT FAO AND WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AND HAS FOUND NO CONCRETE REASON TO SUSPECT THEY ARE PLOTTING AGAINST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SO FAR AS COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL AND PROGRAM AND

FINANCE COMMITTEES (#)

PER SE BECAUSE IT WAS PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH INTERNAL GROUP ORGANIZATION AND PLANNING. DISCUSSION OF WORKING PARTY IN QUESTION CONSISTED PRINCIPALLY OF BRIEFING AND APPRECIATION BY U.S. CO-CHAIRMAN, SUMMARIZED IN PARA 4 REF B, EXCEPT THAT QUESTION OF PERSONAL AS OPPOSED TO GOVERNMENTAL CAPACITY OF REPRESENTATION ON PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEE WAS ONLY MENTIONED IN GENEVA GROUP MEETING AS POSSIBLE ISSUE IN WORKING PARTY, AND WAS NOT DISCUSSED FURTHER BECAUSE OF SENSITIVITIES NOTED IN PARAGRAPH BELOW. LIMITED CONCLUSIONS SUGGESTED BY CO-CHAIRMAN, BASED ON EARLIER CONSULTATION WITH OTHER GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS AND OTHER INFORMED SOURCES, WERE CLEARLY ACCEPTED BY GROUP, AND EXPLICITLY ENDORSED BY JAPANESE AND ITALIAN REPRESENTATIVES: A) MAIN ISSUE WILL BE EXPANSION OF COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP, PARTICULARLY IN DIRECTION OF INCREASED AFRICAN

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 02687 02 OF 02 191520Z

PARTICIPATION, B) FORCES FAVORING ENLARGEMENT OF COUNCIL AND CHANGES IN PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES HAVE LOST MUCH OF THEIR FORCE, C) BEST TACTIC OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WOULD BE QUIETLY TO RESIST CHANGES IN COUNCIL AND PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES, AND D) ELECTIONS OF NOVEMBER 1975 OF GROUP 77 REPRESENTATIVES TO ALL FINANCE COMMITTEE SEATS, EXCEPT FOR SWEDEN AND U.S. FIRST ALTERNATE, HAS IMPAIRED INFLUENCE OF GENEVA GROUP IN FAO.

10. U.S. CO-CHAIRMAN THOUGHT IT WOULD NOT BE USEFUL TO DISCUSS IN FULL GROUP MEETING QUESTION OF PERSONAL CAPACITY OF MEMBERSHIP IN PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES, BECAUSE NETHERLANDS, GERMAN, JAPANESE, AND U.K. CANDIDATES HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN BITTER COMPETITION FOR SEATS IN PROGRAM COMMITTEE. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE HAS DISCUSSED QUESTION WITH INDIVIDUAL COLLEAGUES OVER PERIOD OF SEVERAL WEEKS WITH SOMEWHAT LESS SENSITIVITY. CONSIDERING ONLY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WHO HAVE REPRESENTATIVES ON PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES, EXPERIENCES DIFFER. WHEN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE IS ALSO COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE, REPORTING MORE EASILY INTEGRATED INTO POST REPORTING AND THERE IS LESS PRACTICAL PROBLEM ABOUT PERSONAL CAPACITY OF COMMITTEE STATUS, ALTHOUGH QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE REMAINS. IN CASE OF GRABITSCH OF GERMANY, (NOT PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE, WHO HAD BEEN MEMBER OF PROGRAM COMMITTEE AND IS NOW ALTERNATE), HE REPORTEDLY PROVIDES COMMITTEE INFORMATION TO HIS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE'S OFFICE FOR INTEGRATION INTO REPORTING, AND DOES NOT SERVE AS GERMAN SPOKESMAN IN CONFERENCES ON MATTERS INVOLVING PROGRAM COMMITTEE. INDIVIDUALS CONSULTED WERE GENERALLY OF VIEW THAT ROLE OF INDIVIDUAL PRIVATE-CAPACITY MEMBER WITH RESPECT TO HIS OWN GOVERNMENT WAS MATTER FOR THAT GOVERNMENT, BUT THAT PERSONAL CAPACITY

OF MEMBERSHIP HAD ENABLED DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES TO REACH CONSENSUSES IN COMMITTEES USEFUL TO DEVELOPED COUNTRIES THAT WOULD NOT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE: THUS IT WAS NOT IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES' INTEREST TO CHANGE PERSONAL CAPACITY OF MEMBERSHIP. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SEPARATELY SOUNDED OUT FAO COUNCIL CHAIRMAN BULA HOYOS AS TO WHETHER THIS ISSUE WAS LIKELY TO ARISE IN WORKING PARTY: BULA HOYOS SAID HE DID NOT KNOW, BUT IT MIGHT COME UP.

11. REQUEST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON U.S.-CANADIAN TALKS.  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 ROME 02687 02 OF 02 191520Z

REQUEST MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT OF U.S.-CANADIAN CONSULTATIONS ON WORKING PARTY, PARA 3 REF A. FYI. CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE IN ROME IS PRACTICALLY UNINSTRUCTED BY HER GOVERNMENT ON WORKING PARTY. VOLPE

NOTE BY OC/T: ROME 2687 (SEC 2 OF 2). (#)OMISSION IN PARA 8.  
CORRECTION TO FOLLOW.

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## Message Attributes

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